

CAFAS and PECFAS

The Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale and the Preschool and Early Childhood Functional Assessment Scale

“CAFAS is used to assess degree of impairment in children and adolescents with emotional, behavioral, or substance use symptoms/disorders.” (*CAFAS Manual*)

The Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) is an assessment tool used by Health and Welfare clinicians to determine a child’s functional impairment in eight life domain areas.

The tool provides a numeric rating in each of the 8 areas the lower the score the better the child is functioning. If the child receives an eighty or higher they may be eligible for services. Once the child is receiving services the child is periodically assessed using the CAFAS to determine improvement in functioning.

The 8 life domain areas are:

- **School/Work:** ability to function satisfactorily in a school or work setting.
- **Home:** ability to perform age appropriate tasks and follow rules at home
- **Community:** ability to respect for the rights and property of others and compliance with laws.
- **Behavior Toward Others:** appropriate behavior toward others
- **Moods/Emotions:** ability to appropriately experience, control and express feelings
- **Self Harmful Behavior:** ability to cope without harming self or threatening to harm self
- **Substance Abuse:** use and extent it interferes with functioning
- **Thinking:** ability to use rational thought processes

Please Note:

*PECFAS is available for children ages 4-7 years of age. It is similar to the CAFAS.

*CAFAS is available for children ages 8-18 years of age.